

## OVERSHADOWING EVENT.

## THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION TO MEET THIS WEEK.

The delegates will begin to arrive on Wednesday. The Baptist Young People to meet Thursday morning and the Educational Society Thursday night. The convention will convene Friday. The arrangements for the occasion.

The overshadowing event in Wilmington now is the meeting this week of the Southern Baptist convention. The number of delegates expected is about 1,000 and it is anticipated that there will be 5,000 visitors. There will be delegates here from every southern state, and from many western states, including Indian Territory and Oregon. There will also be visitors from all over the south and from many cities in New England and the north. They will begin to arrive on next Wednesday.

**FIRST MEETING OF THE WEEK.**  
The Baptist Young People's convention will convene in the auditorium of the First Baptist church at 9:30 a. m. next Thursday. The Rev. L. O. Dawson, of Alabama, is president, and is expected to preside. Mr. J. W. Bailey, editor of The Biblical Recorder, Raleigh, N. C., will deliver the address of welcome in behalf of the people of North Carolina. Mr. George E. Leftwich, superintendent of the First Baptist church Sunday school, will deliver the address of welcome on behalf of the Baptists of Wilmington.

**THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.**  
The American Baptist Educational Society will meet in the auditorium at 8 p. m. Thursday. There will be addresses by the Rev. Dr. K. B. Tupper, of Philadelphia, Professor W. L. Poteat, of Wake Forest college, N. C., and others.

**THE CONVENTION.**  
The Southern Baptist Convention will be convened in the auditorium at 10 a. m. next Friday. The Hon. Jonathan Hawsdon, of Alabama, is president, and is expected to preside. The secretaries are the Rev. Dr. Lansing Burrows, of Augusta, Ga., and the Rev. Dr. O. E. Gregory, of Baltimore. Irredell Meares, Esq., a prominent member of the Wilmington bar, will deliver the address welcoming the convention and visitors to the city. The Rev. W. B. Oliver, pastor of the First Baptist church, will deliver the welcoming address in behalf of the three Baptist churches of Wilmington. At 8 p. m. Friday the Rev. Dr. R. A. Venable, of Meridian, Miss., will deliver the introductory sermon. A large choir and full orchestra, with Miss Annie Chastan as organist and director, will furnish fine music during the sitting of the convention.

## THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

At 10 a. m. Friday the American Baptist Woman's Missionary Society will convene at the First Presbyterian church. Miss Fannie Heck, of Raleigh, is president, and Miss Annie Armstrong, of Baltimore, secretary. Mrs. C. E. Stevenson, of this city, will deliver the welcoming address.

## COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS.

During the sitting of the convention the board of trustees and the various committees will meet at Grace M. E. church, the Y. M. C. A. building and the armory of the Wilmington Light Infantry. The armory having been kindly tendered by the Light Infantry to the convention, will also be used for social purposes by the members of the convention.

## OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

The First Baptist church and the annex, or lecture room, have undergone extensive improvements for this occasion. The church has been fitted with a new carpet, and the paint brush has been freely used.

The lower hall of the lecture room has been greatly improved, and the upper hall has been floored, ceiling, plastered and painted. The lecture room, or lower hall, will be turned over to the American Baptist Publication Society, the Foreign Missionary Board and the Sunday school board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Baptist publications and curios from foreign missionary fields will be on exhibition. The upper hall will be used for committee and overflow meetings.

## A SUB-POSTOFFICE.

The Sunday school library room at the Fifth street entrance of the lecture room, by courtesy of our enterprising postmaster, Mr. George L. Morton, will be converted into a sub-postoffice where all the delegates and visitors to the convention can get their mail. Postoffice attaches will be in charge, and the mails will be delivered to the sub-postoffice as fast as they come in on the various railroads. The sub-postoffice will also be fitted with telegraph calls so the delegates can have the very best facilities for calling messenger boys, so they can get off their telegrams, etc.

The infant Sunday school room, at the rear of the lecture room, and four rooms in the main church building, two down stairs and two up stairs, will be used for committee rooms. The Rev. W. B. Oliver's private study at the rear of the lecture room will be turned over for the exclusive use of the secretaries of the convention.

## BUREAUS OF INFORMATION.

Bureaus of information will be established at the Y. M. C. A. building, at the chamber of commerce rooms on Front street, and at the armory of the Wilmington Light Infantry.

All the local committees, including the central committee, of which the Rev. W. B. Oliver is chairman, etc., will have headquarters at the chamber of commerce rooms.

The Ladies' Missionary societies of

the three Baptist churches will give a reception to the visiting ladies on Friday night at the Y. M. C. A.

The reception committee of the central committee will meet the delegates at the trains and assign them to their homes. The citizens may also meet their guests if they desire.

On next Sunday morning and night the visiting ministers will preach in the various churches in the city. By request of Cape Fear Camp, No. 254, United Confederate Veterans, the Rev. Dr. J. William Jones, of Virginia, will deliver an address on the Christian character of General Robert E. Lee, at 5 p. m. Sunday at the First Presbyterian church.

## THE PRESS.

The choir loft, right over the president of the convention, has been assigned to the representatives of the secular press. Arrangements have been made on the auditorium floor for the representatives of the secular press.

The entertainment committee will send out notices Tuesday morning to those who will entertain delegates, giving them the names of those who have been assigned to homes with them.

## CHARLOTTE CHAT.

**The Heated Mayoralty Campaign—The City's Interests Not Injured by Such Contentions—Charlotte Baptists Interested in the Approaching Convention in this City—Christian Endeavor Meeting—Contributions to the Messenger—Sunday and Monday Papers Discussed.**

(Correspondence of The Messenger.)

Charlotte, N. C., April 30.

The mayoralty contest continues to be the all-absorbing topic of interest in Charlotte, and both sides are now making supreme efforts to get their forces in line for the final battle at the polls next Monday. The past week, politically, has been rather devoid of any notable incidents. Several pugilistic encounters have occurred between certain elements of the two opposing factions, but, with the exception of a few black eyes and battered cheeks, no harm has been done in these little "differences," in fact they have been altogether more amusing than serious. The man who carries the blackest eye and the largest lump on his jaw seems to be the one who takes the greatest interest in the difficulty after it is over, and, with the usual characteristics of the fighter, he is heard to loudly proclaim that if his friends had not intervened just when they did he would have "done" the other fellow.

The pessimistic citizen is now abroad in the land crying that the present contest will work to the injury of Charlotte's prosperity, but the better feeling of the people of this city, like all other cities, has her little interior political disturbances, but when this contest is over, no matter who wins, you will find our good citizens standing shoulder to shoulder pushing with greater energy than ever before in their efforts to land the city on the top notch of the hill of peace and prosperity.

It looks like Mr. Springs, the independent democratic candidate, would win by a small majority. The situation, however, changes so often that there is no telling what may happen by next Monday. It is difficult to see how, with the large following that he has from all parties, he can be beaten, and unless the information your correspondent can gather is altogether at fault, Mr. Springs will certainly be the next mayor of Charlotte.

The Southern Baptist convention, which meets in Wilmington next week, is creating considerable interest in Charlotte, and a large number of people from the various Baptist churches here will attend. There will also be a great many who will take advantage of the low rates offered to make a visit to the seashore near Wilmington. The meeting of the society of Christian Endeavor closed the early part of this week. The meeting was a great success, and the visiting delegates and friends went away greatly pleased with Charlotte and charmed with the pleasant courtesies accorded them while here.

A special session of the federal court is being held here this week, Judge Simonton presiding. The session is held for the trial of civil cases only, and has been devoted to the general interest which attaches to the regular session in June and December. The typical mountaineer from the western fastness of the state has been conspicuous by his absence, but at the regular session in June he will be here in all his glory to stand trial for making "moonshine."

Sunday's issue of The Messenger, carrying eight pages of excellent reading matter, was greeted with much favorable comment by its friends in Charlotte, and it is to be hoped that the eight-page issue to be a regular feature of The Sunday Messenger. There is nothing the reading public appreciates greater than haste and enterprise, and when a newspaper demonstrates, as The Messenger has done, that it is keeping abreast of the times and giving its patrons the best possible service, it will never lack for patronage.

Speaking on the subject of newspapers, it might be well to ask why Wilmington and Charlotte, the two leading cities of the state, could not give the public a Monday morning paper? The very creditable Monday morning edition of The Charlotte Observer, giving a full account of the trials and events of the day, and besides giving all of the telegraphic news and other matter the same as carried on other days, shows what might be done along this line. The time has arrived when regular newspaper readers are becoming restless at being shut out from the news of the world from Sunday morning to Tuesday morning, and your correspondent trusts that in the near future The Observer and The Messenger will be issued seven days in the week.

The carping critic who shuts himself within the contracted limits of his narrow world and rails out at the Sunday newspaper and against the work necessary to be done on Sunday in order to produce the Monday morning paper, may as well seek a new field for criticism. The Sunday paper is a fixture that has come to stay, and as soon as the enterprising papers in the Carolina fully realize that it is in the interest of their patrons to issue a Monday morning paper it will also be forthcoming.

**More Bank Officers Indicted.**

Chicago, May 1.—The grand jury to-night returned indictments against five men connected with the management of the defunct Globe Savings bank. The men indicted are Charles W. Spaulding, president of the bank; John E. Spaulding, secretary; Charles E. Spaulding, assistant secretary; Charles E. Spaulding, assistant cashier; and Allison Harlan, one of the directors. There are twenty-nine indictments in all.

## THE CRIMINAL COURT.

## TEN CONVICTS FOR THE STATE PENITENTIARY.

**Sixty-Five Cases Tried by Jury During the Week, Besides About Fifteen Cases Otherwise Disposed Of—Eleven Convicts for the Work House—Report of the Grand Jury—Court Adjourns.**

Pursuant to adjournment for recess on Friday evening, the circuit criminal court of New Hanover county met yesterday, Judge Sutton presiding.

## GRAND JURY REPORT.

The grand jury having completed its labors made the following report and was discharged:

"To His Honor Thomas H. Sutton, Judge of the First Criminal Circuit, the Grand Jury of the April Term, 1897, would respectfully report:

"We have passed upon 62 bills of indictment and have found 52 true bills and 1 not true bill. We have also made four recommendations."

"The county home for the aged and infirm and the buildings and premises attached and surrounding have been carefully examined. The condition of the inmates of the home has been inquired into and their treatment investigated. The premises around the home are clean and the garden bears evidence of good work and proper superintendence. The home itself is quite neatly kept and otherwise is in reasonably good condition, though white washing of the rooms would contribute greatly to their appearance and add greatly to the comfort of the inmates. The kitchen especially needs the treatment just referred to. For purposes of use and convenience though not now essentially necessary, we think there should be three drive pumps located on the stockade premises, behind the colored ward and in the asylum yard. In general the patients express themselves contented with their food and with the treatment received from the keeper. Complaints of insufficiency of clothing we regard as measurably just and we suggest that this should be remedied. While neither the food nor its insufficiency at the time it is served, is just cause for complaint, we think that from noon of one day to 8 o'clock of the next is much too long a period of abstinence from solid food and we recommend that such food be served to the inmates in sufficient quantity to be sufficient between meals. In general, say at or near sunset, as indicated above we have been led by our investigation and inquiry to regard Mr. Thomas Watson, the present keeper of the home, as a kind and considerate superintendent and director and as faithful in the performance of the duties laid upon him.

"We have made due inquiry and investigation as to the management of the county jail and the condition of the building, and we find that the food is clean and of proper character and quantity, and that the inmates are well clothed and properly served. The building is kept as clean, probably, as is practicable, but we think the entire interior needs whitewashing. We regard it as essential that the building should be properly ventilated, the foul air in the female ward being, in our opinion, exceedingly unhealthy. "With regard to the court house we recommend that measures be taken to secure more cleanliness in the halls, and on the balconies, and that more spittoons be purchased in order, in part, to effect this.

"JOHN McLAURIN, Foreman."

## THE DOCKET CLEARED UP.

The court took up the remaining cases on the docket and disposed of them as follows:

State vs. Robert Fennell, colored, carrying concealed deadly weapon, defendant called and failed, judgment nisi.

State vs. Alex. Fuller, colored, injury to personal property, cutting the tire of Mr. Frank Turrentine's bicycle, mistrial.

State vs. Isaac Carver, colored, abandonment of wife, not guilty.

State vs. William Schenck, colored, carrying concealed deadly weapon, verdict not guilty.

Edward Sharpless, colored, convicted of manslaughter for the killing of Sam Register, colored, and sentenced to a term of ten years in the penitentiary, was brought into court. His attorney, Marsden Bellamy, Esq., informed the court that Sharpless was 64 years old, and in view of his previous good character, entreated Judge Sutton to reduce the old man's sentence, so that at least his term would not be more than would carry him beyond the allotted time of man, "three-score years and ten." Judge Sutton told Sharpless that in recognition of his previous good character, showing what a good character is worth, he would reduce his sentence to seven years.

## RECRUITS FOR THE PENITENTIARY.

Since the court convened at 10 o'clock on Monday last, the court tried 65 cases by jury, besides otherwise disposing of about fifteen cases.

The following convicts were sentenced to the state penitentiary, and Deputy Sheriff W. W. King will leave here on Tuesday morning with them for Raleigh, viz:

Edward Sharpless, colored, manslaughter, seven years.

Robert Johnson, colored, larceny, three years and six months.

James Davis, colored, larceny, two years and six months.

John Dobson, colored, larceny, two years and six months.

William Jackson, colored, larceny, two years.

Thomas Johnson, colored, larceny, one year.

William Fisher, colored, larceny, one year.

John Moore, colored, larceny, one year.

David Lickque, colored, larceny, one year.

William James, colored, larceny, one year.

## SENTENCED TO THE WORKHOUSE.

The following convicts were sentenced to the county workhouse:

Charles Fisher, colored, abandonment of wife and children, six months.

Charles Magone, colored, assault and

battery with a deadly weapon, 3 months.

Harry Barnes, colored, injury to personal property, 3 months.

James Brock, white, resisting officer, 3 months.

Sam Marshall, colored, carrying concealed deadly weapon, 6 months.

Abram Nutt, colored, carrying concealed deadly weapon, 3 months.

Eugene Pugh, colored, carrying concealed deadly weapon, 2 months.

George Wright, colored, resisting officer, 6 months.

William Holly, colored, carrying concealed deadly weapon, 3 months.

Richard Nelson, colored, assault and battery with a deadly weapon, 3 months.

## RAISED FROM THE GRAVE.

**C. M. Brown Regains Consciousness After Forty-Eight Hours' Burial—Another Wonderful Exhibition by Professor Carraway.**

(Jacksonville Times-Union April 30.)

The last performance of the famous hypnotist, Professor Carraway, was given last night, at which time C. M. Brown, who was put under the hypnotic influence forty-eight hours previously and buried in a grave at the corner of Monroe and Main streets during the entire period, was recalled to a state of consciousness, and the first want expressed by the young man was to find a cigarette smoker.

Many of the features of the first night's entertainment were repeated, and several surprises were sprung on the audience. Among others a blank card was asked for from the audience and, being provided, Chief Hancy, of the fire department, was requested to write the name of someone he knew on this card, and to do so after the hypnotist was blindfolded. This was done, and the card was placed in the hand of the hypnotist who, accompanied by Chief Hancy, jumped down into the pit of the opera house and went directly to Harry Houston, seated in the crowd, and caught up his hand and said, "This is your card."

Mr. Houston took the card and assured himself that it was his own name written on the face of it. When Professor Carraway handed the card to Harry Houston it was folded up so that no one could have seen it by any possible chance, and the hypnotist was still blindfolded. Taking the card again Professor Carraway held it tightly and began to spell out the words written on the card. He said, "H—U—S—Houston—Mr. Harry Houston is the name."

Everyone in the audience saw and knew Harry Houston, and immediately on the announcement of the mind reader of the name he was given repeated rounds of applause. People on all sides could be heard to say, "That's fraud. It's wonderful. It's wonderful."

The match and cigarette feature was declared excellent. One of the committee hid a match beneath the rug in the center aisle of the pit and another gave J. E. T. Bowden a cigarette and instructed him to place it in his pocket as if prepared for a light. The hypnotist then grasped the hand of one of the committeemen and, finding the match without feeling all over the floor for it, he walked directly to the row of seats where Mr. Bowden was seated and, striking the match, held it so that the cigarette could be lighted without inconvenience in the least to the smoker. All this time the hypnotist was blindfolded.

At 11 o'clock promptly R. L. Ivey, business manager of the company, announced that the time for resurrecting the sleeping subject had arrived and Undertaker Clark and Thomas Burns and the members of the committee who had seen the burial ceremony were requested to come upon the stage.

Undertaker Clark and his assistant proceeded to take the lid off the casket. Mr. Brown was laid out in his white robe on a mattress provided for the occasion, and several persons were stationed to hold him to prevent injury when he came out of the deep sleep. The casket was brought around all right. Professor Carraway will go to Savannah from this city, where he will bury another person if permitted by the authorities.

## The North Carolina Sorosis.

The New York Times of April 11th says:

One of the most interesting visitors at Sorosis last Monday was Mrs. Gertrude Jenkins Howell, president of the North Carolina Sorosis. Mrs. Howell was interesting personally, but the enthusiasm with which she told the members of the mother Sorosis of the work of her namesake was particularly attractive. The North Carolina club is only two years old, and it does not know much about club life outside of its own membership, but it is working earnestly to do something that is worthy of the name.

It is a department club, having an art, home, science, and literary department. "We are not used to writing papers, so it is more difficult for us," said Mrs. Howell. "We are not supposed, though, to write papers. We are supposed to speak extemporaneously, so some of the members have learned whole papers by heart, so as not to be obliged to refer to notes. We hope our next year to do something about street cleaning. As things are now we place refuse from the house out on the street, and the next thing we know, if it is any kind of a respectable box or barrel, the darkies have carried it off, and emptied its contents upon the street."

The club recently had its first debate upon the servant question, which read: "Resolved, That the mistress, and not the servant, is responsible for the present imperfect system of housekeeping." All sorts of subjects connected with the home have been discussed in the home science department, and as practically as possible. This was illustrated at the last meeting. The members treated respectively the subjects, "Analysis of Food," "What Do We Eat?" and "What is Dyspepsia?"

The last subject was given to a member who is a great sufferer from dyspeptic throes, and it was thought she could best answer the question.

Henderson Gold Leaf: It speaks well for the people of North Carolina that there is not an inmate of the county jail.

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**Frey's Vermifuge**  
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**E. & S. FREY, Baltimore, Md.**

## Reminiscences of an Octogenarian.

## THE STEAM SAW MILLS OF WILMINGTON.

One of the most important and valuable interests of the city of Wilmington has been and still is that of its team saw mills. The business in former years was immense, and it is still lucrative though not to so great a degree as of old, as its character and nature have greatly changed since its inception. Then the product of the mills found a ready market at remunerative prices in the West Indies and South America, bringing in return, coin, foreign exchange or the produce of those lands, which latter was equivalent to money as it generally commanded a ready sale, and thus all of that large amount of available funds was distributed freely among the people at home.

Every interest felt its influence and while it is true that most of those who owned and operated the mills realized fortunes yet its benefits to the community at large were so generally distributed as to give tone and a healthy impetus to trade and investments. It is difficult to determine which has been of more benefit to Wilmington, the fact that the mills were there, or the fact that the product of the former has become exhausted while the latter is still carried on with its original vigor and energy.

Like most great undertakings it was in its beginnings confined to a limited area, and with only a local inquiry, but as the products of the mills became known abroad there sprang up a demand which frequently taxed their resources to their utmost capacity and which still continues to the present time. While there may not be "millions in it" just now, it is yet a most widely extended and profitable business, and properly conducted, seldom fails to yield generous returns.

At the suggestion of some who have thought that a brief mention of the pioneers in that great enterprise which established here nearly four score years ago might not prove altogether uninteresting we indite the following:

The first team saw mill erected in Wilmington was put up on the western bank of the Cape Fear river nearly opposite the foot of Chestnut street by an Italian, named Mazzaretti in 1818, or '20. Soon after its completion he disposed of it to Mr. H. B. Howard and removed from Wilmington, and what his future was, is unknown to any of the present day. Mr. Howard operated the mill for a year or two when it was destroyed by fire and he had no rebuild but disposed of the site to other parties.

At the southern limit of the town Mr. John H. McIlhenny owned a mill which was and still is known by the name of the Cowan mill, and it was in that vicinity that the first ship was built in Wilmington or perhaps in North Carolina. She was named the Eliza and Susan and made several voyages to Europe under the command of Captain Huntington who is well remembered by many of our citizens.

Mr. McIlhenny disposed of that property to the late Captain Gilbert Potter who carried on the business for some years in his own name until joined by his son-in-law, Mr. Edward Kidder, when under the firm name of Potter & Kidder it became widely extended and was known at home and abroad as one of the most conservative and reliable houses engaged in that business. Upon the retirement of Captain Potter from the active duties of life, Mr. Silas N. Martin became a partner with Mr. Kidder and the firm under the name of Kidder & Martin was for a number of years the most active and prominent house in that business in the south, and were eminently successful. It is now owned and operated by George W. Kidder, Esq., under the name of Edward Kidder & Son.

Captain Potter in early life had followed the sea and commanded ships, and was a very active and energetic specimen of stalwart manhood, and among other qualities he possessed, was a voice remarkably deep and powerful and resonant in its intonations like the tones of a French horn, when he had a mind to tune it he would draw the strings of his voice and utter a low, little incident in this connection which occurred many years ago which still lingers in his memory and in which that voice played quite a conspicuous part.

It was late one night, in the early spring time of the year, when the town bell, there was but one bell at that time, rang out the fire alarm. The inhabitants were asleep at the time, but at the first clangor of the bell they rushed down to the old court house which then stood at the intersection of Chestnut and Market streets and was the general gathering place of the citizens, each asking the other where the fire was as they had not been able to locate it, but none seemed to know. A crowd soon gathered on the street and there was great noise and confusion, the bell ringing incessantly amidst shouts from the populace "where's the fire, where's the fire." The inevitable small boy was there of course in all of his glory, and was conspicuous by the noise and racket he kicked up, but no one could answer the inquiry, which was on every lip, as to where the fire was. Suddenly an upper window in the hotel adjoining was fiercely thrown open with a crash, a head protruded and then a stentorian voice like a bugle's blast rang out above the hideous din and uproar in commanding tones "in the neighborhood of my mill." There was no need for further enquiry and there was none, the crowd rushed off to the scene of the conflagration, which was sure enough found to be, as indicated by that voice "in the neighborhood of that mill."

Prior to his election as governor Edward B. Dudley and P. K. Dickinson, under the firm name of Dudley & Dickinson owned the adjoining mill. Mr. O. G. Parsley subsequently purchasing an interest in it. At one time Messrs. Bullard & Huntington owned and ran it, and finally it passed into the possession of Messrs. Pierce & Dudley. The mill in that portion of the town was owned by W. B. Giles &

Co., who worked it in conjunction with a turpentine distillery with great success for a number of years when they sold out to Wooten, Anderson & Co., but within a year the mill was burned and never rebuilt. Mr. Aaron Lazarus, one of Wilmington's most prominent merchants in connection with Mr. John A. Taylor erected the first planing mill ever put up in Wilmington, or we think in the state on the location where the steam saw mill of S. & W. H. Northrop now stands. At the foot of Dock street on the opposite side of the river Mr. Henry E. Savage owned a mill which was known as Steam Saw Mill No. 5 and was operated under the general superintendency of Mr. Harvey Law, a very ingenious man, but rather visionary in his ideas. I am under the impression that Mr. Savage sold Steam Saw Mill No. 5 to Mr. Samuel Beery and he disposed of it to Mr. M. Costin but I am not certain as to that, I only know that Mr. Costin owned a mill on that side of the river and which was burned. I think that Mr. C. D. Ellis was at one time a mill owner also on the western side of the river. Dickinson & Morris were the proprietors of a mill located at Point Peter and which I am under the impression was built by Mr. V. G. Parsley, who subsequently established the present one now in operation at Hilton.

A Mr. Richardson, years ago, built a mill at the foot of Walnut street, a rather small affair, which Colonel John McRae subsequently purchased enlarged and improved, giving it the name of the Harrison mill. Mr. P. K. Dickinson owned a saw and planing mill higher up towards Hilton, now the property of the Carolina Central railroad, and just above it we find the mills of the F. Chadbourne Lumber Company in the region of "paradise" as that locality has been known from time immemorial—"paradise," doubtless a charming spot for rest and enjoyment to which one retires when wearied with the shriek of the circular saw or the continuous roar of a modern steam saw mill.

There are two other mills, the Perego Lumber Company at Hilton, the home of that representative man of the Cape Fear section during the revolution, Cornelius Harnett, and Wadleigh mill situated on the west side of the northmost branch of the great river above the works of Messrs. Powers, Gibbs & Co., but neither are within the limits of the city.

We are told that there are not as many rapid fortunes now being made in the milling business as in the old days, but the competition is so great and the creation of so many mills in every cross road in the country and along the lines of the railroads has diverted the trade from its original source and greatly lessened the profits of the business. We suppose that is so, but it is still one of the great interests of Wilmington and will continue to be so until our pine forests disappear from the face of the earth. SENE.

## The Convocation of Wilmington.

(Correspondence of The Messenger.)

Clinton, N. C., May 1.

The convocation of Wilmington met in St. Paul's church, Clinton, Thursday morning, April 29th, 1897. This being the annual meeting, a larger number of the clergy were expected, but for various reasons could not come.

The morning service was said by Rev. P. N. Skinner and Rev. T. M. George, the Rev. Stewart McQueen preaching the opening sermon from the Acts of the Apostles, I, 3.

Owing to the change of schedule on the Clinton branch of the Wilmington and Weldon road, the Western North Carolina clergy did not reach Clinton until after the hour appointed for the business meeting of the convocation, Thursday afternoon, and this meeting was postponed until Friday at 4 o'clock p. m. The evening service Thursday was said by Rev. Messrs. McQueen, Tolson and George, the Rev. Robert Strange preaching a strong, eloquent and practical sermon from Exodus, xix, 16.

After the Litany service Friday morning, the Rev. Mr. George, of New Bern, read an essay on "The Need of Definite Christian Work in the Church for the Newly Confirmed." The essayist, after showing the great need for such work, urged the coming march of supplying this need. In the discussion of the subject, which was participated in by all the clergy present, the personal experience of the speakers in dealing with this need, and the success of their efforts were explained.

At the business meeting held in the afternoon, reports were read by the treasurer and evangelist of the convocation, a scale of assessments for the support of the evangelist was adopted, and various matters of routine business were acted on.

Snow Hill was selected as the place for the next meeting of convocation, to be held September 23, 1897. Rev. P. N. Skinner was re-elected secretary and treasurer.

After the evening service, which was read by Rev. Mr. George and Rev. Dr. Strange, addresses on "The Nature and Power of the Apostolic Commission" were made by Rev. Mr. McQueen, of Goldsboro, Rev. Mr. Tolson and Rev. Mr. Wooten, of Wilmington. The address of Rev. Mr. Tolson was by all who heard it spoken of as a masterful effort, presenting the subject clearly and fully and as fully as possible in the limited time allowed him.

After this service the convocation adjourned.

## The New Chinese Minister.

Washington, May 1.—President McKinley at noon today received the new Chinese minister, Mr. Wu Ting Fang, in the Blue parlor of the White house. The ceremonies were of a formal kind. Mr. Fang, accompanied by three secretaries and the retiring minister, Mr. Yang Yu, accompanied by two secretaries, drove over to the White house with Secretary of State Sherman and Assistant Secretary Rockhill. They were dressed in their flowing silk robes and made a picturesque appearance as they were ushered into the Blue parlor, where the president was awaiting them. The retiring and the incoming ministers, as well as the president, made addresses of felicitation.

## Summer Programme for Naval Reserves.

Washington, May 1.—Lieutenant Gibbons, charged with the arrangements for the summer drills of the naval militia, is now busy in completing the programme for each state. The department has encouraged the encampment of the militia from adjacent states in groups and the states have fallen in with the idea in most instances, though some of the state organizations will act alone this summer, either by preference or from lack of a nearby neighbors.